

► **FREE**

NATIVE LANDS

**Issue #62**

**Oct. 17 to 30, '89**

Toronto's Anarchist Bi-Weekly

# Ecomedia

## BULLETIN

Ecomedia, P.O. Box 915, Stn F, Toronto Ont. M4Y 2N9

*All Material Is Anti-Copy right!*

**ANARCHIST  
HOTLINE**



**535-5731**

### Beyond the Slab



# EXXON FAKES A CLEAN-UP

Exxon's pullout from Alaska, without having cleaned a single beach to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's standards, hasn't receive nearly enough attention from the public. Exxon's oil from the Valdez spill is still on the beaches and the big oil corporation is pulling out, having taken the cake for the biggest farce played on both the people and the environment in recent years.

They tried to make the world believe that the utmost effort was put into the cleaning, but Earth First! representatives who went up there have another tale to tell.

A group of people spent the summer up in Alaska doing what Exxon was supposed to be doing. They called themselves the Volunteer Independent Cleanup Effort, or VICE, and they cleaned beach area using a rock-washer designed by a Homer resident. The group had the aim of proving that the cleanup was possible, without destroying the environment in the

process. While VICE volunteers cleaned rocks individually using a home-made machine, Exxon hired people on for \$17 US an hour and destroyed more than they cleaned. For instance, they littered the water and beaches, and Exxon boats spilled oil, gas, diesel and hydraulic fluid into the already polluted waters. Clean-up crews, ordered not to go ashore as their impact on the fragile shoreline and forests would be tremendous, went anyways and many areas were trampled. Exxon bagged

*(continued on page 2)*

### TEMAGAMI

## Environmentalists: the New Colonialists?

**A**nyone who has been following the Temagami dispute from the mass media, and assumed that environmentalists and Native people have identical goals, might have been jolted by remarks made by Gary Potts, chief of the First nation embroiled in the conflict, at a press conference which formed part of a recent informational evening on Native struggles at the Native Canadian Centre. The evening was held on the first anniversary of the Lubicon blockade in Alberta, and to mark the 497th year of occupation by Europeans of Native land in America (the Temagami struggle has been going on a modest 112 years.)

Chiefs from a number of Ontario First nations took part in the press conference and an ensuing public panel, attended by several hundred people, to describe the battles being waged in their own areas for control of their own land. Ontario regional Elder Fred Plain stressed that the Native peoples share a basic spiritual belief that all humans, not just those

*(continued on page 2)*



# The New Colonialists?

(continued from page1)

on reserves, have the right to protection from the environmental destruction now being waged. Native people had demonstrated their ability to care for the land in an environmentally sound fashion, and now claim the right to representation in all environmental decisions.

But it was Potts who dominated the press conference, charging that the Native people in South Moresby BC had been shortchanged by environmentalists whose main aim was creation of a national park. The resulting park was created from land which rightly belonged to the Haida, and the federal government paid the BC government for the land rather than the real owners. The Teme Augama Anishnabe are trying to forestall a similar fate, but with negotiations having failed and the courts unsympathetic the next step will likely have to be enforcement of Native jurisdiction on the land. After already having spent seven months on a blockade, they have no illusion that this will be easy. Indeed, the conflict with government enforcement of its supposed rights will likely lead to bloodshed, and therefore the band is determined to exhaust all channels of communications before proceeding in this direction.

Potts remarked that his Nation feels more affinity with the residents of Temagami, who like themselves are committed to living in the region, than with environmentalists whose main concern is development of a summer-time vacation retreat. The environmentalists have no plan for developing an ongoing lifestyle in harmony

with nature, and resist some of the less romantic uses to which the Natives might wish to put the land, including trapping and possibly some cutting down of trees. They do not understand the respect Native people have for the spirituality of the life forms they kill or their desire to preserve the ecosystem.

The Temagami Wilderness Society has alienated local groups, with whom the Natives hope to form an alliance. Many of the woodcutters and millworkers share the Native opposition to clearcutting, and al-

though they have yet to reach agreement on how the cutting is to be done there is a possibility of this happening once the government's plans have been spelled out.

For those who missed the evening at which Potts was speaking, there's another opportunity to hear him on November 2, at the Native Canadian Centre, 16 Spadina Rd. at a Benefit Feast and Drumfest for the Teme-Augama Anishnabai struggle. It starts at 5pm, and features fresh lake trout from the region as its main dish. For more info contact Verna at 533-6175.

## Exxon Scam

(continued from 1)

up all the oiled matter they could see and sent it to an Oregon landfill or trucked it to Valdez to be incinerated into our atmosphere. When Exxon teams cleaned the beach with scalding water (which a recent study cited as killing marine life on the beach to a 1 foot depth), the oily run-off water was allowed to drain back into the sea.

That's what's really been happening up in Alaska. While VICE brought together environmentalists, fishers, hunters, anarchists and ex-Exxon workers together for a positive direct action which works, Exxon just made more trouble, then pulled out saying its job was done.

Still, all this didn't go without snags for the giant multinational. An Earth First! activist chained herself to the front doors of Exxon in Valdez while two others hung a banner from the

roof, which due to the lack of media in Valdez, was videotaped and recorded for media coverage in other cities. In mid-August activists hit the Anchorage headquarters of the Alyeska Pipeline Company, a front group for the several multinational oil companies (including Exxon) that all but rule Alaska. Activists hung from their roof with a banner reading "Big Oil, death of the future". Activists are planning more against Exxon (known in Canada as Esso, which also now owns Texaco) and other culprits. The main thing to remember is that Exxon is far from being alone in this one. All oil companies would react the same way in such a situation, and most of them have had similar incidents of their own to talk of. It's not a question of just boycotting one company because they're all in it together. Any strategy we develop will have to take them all on. (Earth First!)



## Anarchist Labour Network

One of the most positive things to come out of this year's continental anarchist gathering in San Francisco was the formation of the Anarchist Labour Network. This network will hopefully get anarchist unionists working together on projects of mutual concern and sharing advice and information. Their bulletin, The Anarchist Labor Bulletin, is published monthly and serves as a means of communication for the network. The network involves anarcho-syndicalists from the Workers Solidarity Alliance, the US section of the International Workers Association, members of the Industrial Workers of the World, a radical industrial union self-managed by the workers, and members of the International Music Workers Union, a member-controlled union for people involved in the entertainment industry. At the moment this network involves only US contacts but may eventually spill over into Canada. To get in touch with them, or to receive the bulletin, write to Incendiary Publications, P.O. box 210095, San Francisco, CA, 94121. USA.

## Ona MOVE!

The Anarchist Black Cross (Toronto), a defense group for political prisoners, is appealing for donations towards material aid for Ramona Africa, a MOVE political prisoner. MOVE is a primarily Black, radical, anti-industrial, anti-capitalist "family". Ramona is the only adult survivor of the 1985 bombing of the MOVE household in Philadelphia, and is still being held in the women's prison in Muncy. In the upcoming Christmas season, she is allowed to buy nuts and cheese in large quantities, which are important for her vegetarian diet. The ABC is requesting that donations be sent to: Ramona support fund, c/o ABC (Toronto), P.O. Box 6326 Stn A, Toronto Ontario, Canada M5W 1P7 before November 1, 1989 (so please rush!). All money received will be forwarded directly to Ramona. Remember: They're in there for us, we're out here for them.

# "We showed the Rich People We Know How to Fight"

A battle in the war for Mexicano independence, and against cultural genocide, was won in late August 1989, when Vista Del Brazos realtors backed down on their claim of owning land which is part of the Tierra Amarilla communal land grant.

In April 1988, Vista Del Brazos had Amador Flores sent to jail for two months, claiming that the land he was using for hunting and gathering wood belonged to them. The land in dispute was, in fact, part of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant, land owned collectively by the indigenous Mexicano people, and protected by the Mexican government, before Mexico's northern half was stolen from them by the USA in 1848. After conquering Mexico, the U.S. government agreed to recognize these grants, but has instead continued to

steal land from the Mexicanos of the Southwestern USA.

When Amador Flores was jailed, many of his supporters occupied the land, determined to protect their community from destruction by white capitalist developers. They built bunkers, dug trenches, and patrolled the parameters of the new camp with armed guards.

During the past 16 months, the camp has served as the centre of resistance for the Tierra Amarilla community, and has been the location site of many cultural events, political rallies and conferences. Most recently, it hosted a September 16th Mexican Independence Day celebration, in which community members also celebrated their recent victory in the land struggle.

On August 28th, Vista Del Brazos awarded Amador Flores \$117,000, and 200 acres of land was turned over to El Consejo de la Tierra Amarilla, who will insure that the land is used communally.

The success of this revolutionary armed action has bolstered the spirits of the community, and given its members fuel to carry on the struggle. There are plans to build a Mexicano cultural centre on the land, and to continue the fight to reclaim all 600,000 acres of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant.

"We (once again) showed the rich people we know how to fight!" -Amador Flores, August 1989. TIERRA O MUERTE!

For more information, contact Ba-Ra (Bay Area Anti-Racist Action), P.O. Box 3501, Oakland CA 94609.





# Investigation or Cover-up?

**T**he native people of Sarawak fear that a fact-finding mission, due to visit the area in November, will be a whitewash, manipulated by the Malaysian government for its own publicity purposes. A top-level mission from the International Timber Trade Organization is to investigate the logging situation in Sarawak. The ITTO is a United Nations chartered organization, made up of countries that are consumers and producers of tropical timber.

In May 1989, the ITTO resolved to send a mission to Sarawak in response to the international outcry about the shattering effects of logging on the Penan and other Dayak peoples. The fact that the Malaysian government is allowing the mission to visit indicates that it has been very worried by the international campaign to halt the logging of tribal lands and to boycott Sarawak hardwoods, which has been gaining momentum since early 1988. The government is hoping that the mission will "clear Malaysia's name," reports to this effect have already appeared in the Malaysian press, which is heavily controlled by the government. The ITTO mission's terms of reference do not mention an investigation into the native peoples' situation, even though the ITTO mandate obliges it to "encourage sustainable forest use."

The Native people fear that the mission will essentially be a cover-up which fails to address the central issue, the handing out by the government of timber concession on land which by right belongs to the Native peoples. It is estimated that three hectares of forest are chopped down

every minute in Malaysia, faster than anywhere else in the world. At that rate, little will be left in 1996 of the forest on which the Penans rely for their livelihood. With the government ignoring their appeals, the native people have been forced into direct confrontation with the loggers, resulting in the arrest of 180 native people since 1987 who are charged with various blockade offences.

In June 1988 the European Parliament passed a resolution calling on its members to ban all hardwood imports from Sarawak "until it can be established that the logging does not cause unnecessary environmental damage and does not threaten the way of life of the indigenous peoples." The U.S. Senate is considering a similar draft bill. (*Survival International*)

## EcomediaToronto

Ecomedia is an international "wire service" which acts as an alternative to the regular news services. We focus on autonomous and anarchist resistance and analysis of current events.

Ecomedia Toronto is involved in three main projects: two radio shows; every Wednesday on CKLN 88.1FM between 7 & 8pm as part of their "Word of Mouth" program; and on CIUT 89.5FM, 12:15 every Friday. And we publish this bulletin, which comes out every two weeks and is available free at locations in Toronto; subscriptions are \$15 for 26 issues (1 year) which are mailed every 2 issues to cut costs. Order yours from the address on the front. Make cheques or M.O.'s payable to Ecomedia.

For those who wish to support us further, donations of both money and time are welcome. The collective is short-staffed right now and any help is greatly appreciated. Write to find out how.

## NON-VIOLENT DEFENSE EXAMINED

Nonviolent civil defense has a much more successful track record than is commonly recognized, and Canada should be making preparations to use it if necessary, Windsor ethics professor George Crowell told a Science for Peace forum on October 12. He cited a number of such cases, including German resistance to the occupation of the Ruhr in 1923 and the use of non-cooperation to save 90% of the Jews in Italy during the Nazi occupation. He also mentioned the work of Peace Brigade International in protecting third world activists from death squads by accompanying them whenever they leave their homes.

Crowell stressed the need for spontaneity and creativity in devising means of resistance, citing as an

example the action of striking Windsor workers in 1946 who created a traffic jam to prevent the RCMP from getting through with their horses to ride down the strikers. He pointed out that small-scale, decentralized energy systems can withstand invasion better than megaprojects as they are harder to take over, and that for the same reason smallscale family farms are preferable to the factory farms now replacing them. However, he stopped short of advocating elimination of central governments, suggesting that they are needed to legislate environmental protection and international treaties. He rejected a suggestion from the audience that most populations are more threatened by their own governments than by an invader.